

HOW TO...

Get news on your browser

Keep up to date with the latest news on your favourite websites by using RSS feeds. Jennifer Bagley demonstrates how easy it is using IE7 and Firefox 2

While some websites change their content hourly, others add new material less frequently. If the site provides an RSS feed, however, it doesn't matter how often the content is updated. An RSS feed quickly allows you to see what additions, if any, have been made to a site. The feed might be accessible through a link or a button labelled XML, RSS or, if the site is using the most recent implementation of RSS, an orange square containing three curved lines.

A feed may include anything that has recently been placed on the site, such as new stories, blog entries and even the latest podcasts. Typically, a feed will give you a list of headlines, each of which has a short description and a link to the new material. All you need is a feed reader, and both the latest versions of Internet Explorer (IE) and Firefox have one built in.

Subscribing to feeds and using a reader is a lot easier than you might think. Here we'll show you how in IE7 and Firefox 2.

1 First, find a feed to which you'd like to subscribe. Not all sites have one. The screenshot below shows a typical feed link, which is what you're most likely to come across. Click on this to go to the site's feed. Firefox users should skip to Step 3 for further instructions; IE7 users can continue with the next step.

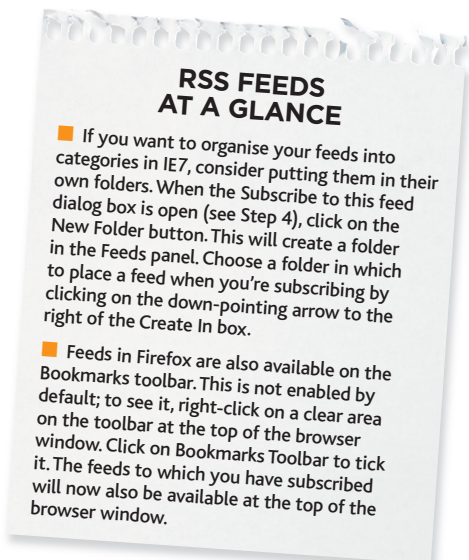
2 If the site has used a compatible feed, you won't have to hunt the page for the RSS link. At the top of IE7's browser window, on the right-hand side, are a row of buttons starting with the Home button; its icon looks like a

house. Next to this is the Feed button. Most of the time this will be grey, but when you go to a site with an RSS feed that supports this feature, as many do these days, it will turn orange. When it does this, click on the button to go straight to the site's feed page. Instructions on how to use feeds in IE7 continue with Step 4.

3 Firefox detects when a site is using the latest implementation of RSS. In Firefox, the orange Feed button appears on the right-hand side of the address bar. Click on the button to go to the site's feeds page. Instructions on how to use feeds in Firefox continue with Step 5.

4 To subscribe to a feed in IE7, make sure you've gone to the website's feeds page either by clicking on a link on the page or on the orange Feed button on the toolbar. On the left-hand side of the IE7 browser window, next to the gold Favorites star, you'll see a button with an icon of a green cross over the top of a small gold star. Click on this and select Subscribe to this feed. In the dialog box that appears, the name of the feed should already be entered. This can be changed to something more suitable if you like. Click on the Subscribe button. Instructions for IE7 now continue with Step 6.

5 To subscribe to a feed in Firefox, go to the feeds page on the website; click on a feed link or on the orange Feed button described in Step 2. A panel at the top of the page will allow you to subscribe to this feed. A drop-down menu in the panel lets you choose a reader, but by default Firefox's own Live Bookmarks will be



selected. Click on the Subscribe Now button. Give your Live Bookmark a suitable name in the dialog box that appears and click on OK. You can also change the folder in which the bookmark is stored if you wish.

6 Checking on the feeds you have subscribed to is easy. In IE7, click on the gold Favorites button and then on the Feeds button. All the subscribed feeds will be listed in the panel that appears. Click on each in turn to see if any new additions have been made. In Firefox, if you didn't change the folder in which Live Bookmarks are stored, click on the Bookmarks menu and then on Bookmarks Toolbar Folder.

